

**The Syringe Services Program Standing Advisory Committee Meeting  
December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
10am-12pm  
St. Mary's County Health Department  
Harm Reduction Satellite Office  
Draft Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present**

Fran Phillips  
Erin Russell  
Dr. Charles Chaulk  
Deanna Dunn  
Sarah Kattakuzhy  
Samantha Kerr  
Dr. Susan Sherman  
Terry Prochnow

**Non -Members Present**

Marie Stratton	Mike Massuli
Jessica Ellis	Dr. Peter DeMartino
Jameika Bulter	Jane Lowing
Tammy Loewe	Howie Newton
Jessica Hall	Captain Eric Sweeney
Jack Latchford	Miera Corey
Zack Kosinski	Kyle Kenny
Allison Thomson	Audrey Sampson
Amy Higgins	Katrina Benson
Tonya Sanders	John Davis
Erin Woodie	Doris McDonald
Shante Johnson	Tricia Christensen
Dana Heilman	Zuriel Savoy
Sophia Reed	Claudia Jackson
Dr. Meenakshi Brewster	

- I. **Call to Order & Introductions- Fran Phillips, Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services, Chair of Standing Advisory Committee**
- II. **Welcome partners in attendance- Dr. Meenakshi Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer**
- III. **New Committee Member Announcement – Josh McCauley from Washington County LEAD**
- IV. **Announcement from Howard County Harm Reduction – Howie Newton**

Howard County Health Department submitted an SSP application for implementation on November 21, 2019. The application is moving through initial review by CHRS and will be ready to send to committee members for review early next week. They are currently

meeting with law enforcement regarding the program and purchased a mobile van for anticipating SSP services.

#### **V. Program Spotlight – St. Mary’s Harm Reduction Program**

Making a good impact in the community by providing resources for a better quality of life for people who use drugs. The Harm Reduction Program provides a welcoming, safe, and judgement free environment. The program is also designed to reduce stigma and educate the community, connect with faith-based community, develop alliances with providers (Outlook and Walden) to reduce barriers. This partnership allows recovery staff from the Walden Residential Treatment to attend Harm Reduction training with the peers from St. Mary’s County. They also partner with the soup kitchen and homeless shelter for testing. They have begun conducting harm reduction groups, in the process of hiring an RN Case Manager to provide wound care, testing and referrals. They currently have a syringe drop off box at the Sheriff’s Office and plan to install them at the libraries.

They currently provide HIV and HepC testing and linkages to care, overdose response training and naloxone, safe injection supplies. They currently have 42 participants, 1,710 sharps distributed, collected 36,847 (probably over 40,000), 252 Narcan distributed, 1,148 engaged and 389 outreach hours. The peer support specialist share information about harm reduction services, syringe pick-up, train staff of nearby hotels, restaurants, and gas stations during street outreach. They participate in the World AIDs Day event collaboration (vendors, flu shops, expungement, treatment, MAT), including advisory board meetings. Testimonials were shared from SSP participants.

#### **VI. Center for Harm Reduction Services- Special Topic – Fentanyl Test Strip Distribution Presentation, Allison Thomson, Intern**

Presentation of recent data results and brief discussion between the public and committee members regarding funding for fentanyl test strips.

#### **VII. MDH Updates – Erin Russell, Center Chief, Center for Harm Reduction Services**

- *Program Updates*- The revised version of the new SSP application for implementation is ready for review. We receive feedback from the SAC committee, programs that have already gone through the process, and organizations that want to apply but shared barriers. Launched new data collection tool for quarterly reporting that includes total new participants for each program, total people served (unduplicated), total syringes

collected and distributed. The site visit reports are in final review stages. Next priority – SSP workforce development and sustainable training model. Regrounding Our Response campaign review of forums and training events.

- *Standing Advisory Committee*- There are currently 13 committee members. The role of the SAC is to review applications, guide local programs on operating procedures, community outreach and education plan, and referral protocols. Local programs are required to operate under technical assistance guidelines from the SAC.

Communication before application submitted will happen with CHRS to get connected to SAC and work with them on their proposal. The Center for Harm Reduction Services recommended that a subcommittee be formed to review applications and provide TA. If the application is denied, they can submit an appeal.

Sequence of Steps: programs receive TA from SAC, prospective programs apply for authorization from MDH and local health officer, MDH receives application and distributes to local health officer, MDH and local health officer jointly approve or deny the application and provide a written explanation.

- *Review of Open Meetings Act, Secretary Appointments, Attendance Policy and SSP Statute*-

50% of the SAC must be present in person or on the phone to allow for voting, approve minutes, etc. Appointees are required to attend 50% of meetings over 12-month period – due to turnover and missed communication with some members, we can work out if there are some lapses over this past year. Promoting of the meeting must be done 3 months in advance per the Open Meetings Act. Shante will post public notice, meeting agenda and minute meetings on the Maryland Registrar. Per PHPA Policy, minutes must be distributed within 2 weeks; once approved, they must be posted online. Public must be allowed to attend, but not required to allow public to participate in open meetings, and disruptive members can be removed. If closed meeting, must be requested in advance for specific purposes.

Dr. Charles Chaulk (SAC member) has completed the Open Meetings Act training.

*Comment from Fran Phillips* – these rules are for all MDH committees for a transparent government, we anticipate more applications coming forward, so we want to make sure we are geared up and ready to handle that; committed to having the meetings all around the state.

*Question from Sarah Kattakuzhy - SAC member – Are there recommended numbers of subcommittee member or topic relevant chairs? Erin Russell suggested rotating after certain number of applications reviewed so one person doesn't have to review an excessive amount.*

*Comment from Dr. Charles Chaulk- SAC member- Supports decision to hold meetings outside of Baltimore City, recommended getting letters from SAC to share with employers.*

All slides will be shared with attendees and folks on the phone.

## **VIII. Public comment**

### *Questions*

1. Are there any ORPs working with dealers to distribute FTS? Yes, ORP in Baltimore City.
2. Are there any ORPs working with detention centers? Yes. (Tammy from St. Mary's BHA explained partnership with local detention center and local pharmacy to deliver naloxone kits upon release that include FTS; for individuals that don't have medical assistance, private insurance co-pays are high for naloxone.
3. Is there any more funding for FTS? No. Unsure about funding in the future, but can do exchange and redistribution with other authorize ORPs.
3. Can MDH, Center for Harm Reduction Services share dates and region where it will be held farther in advance for people to save the date and plan for travel? Can SAC do something for the site to make it easier for hosts?

Public Comment – In NJ, they amended the Good Samaritan Law to protect all agencies against false negatives.

## **IX. Closing – Fran Phillips**